AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a disorder associated with the activation of γ-secretase by inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase ~~using~~ comprising the step of:

administering an effective amount of a cholesterol synthesis inhibitor or a protein geranylgeranylation regulator to a patient in need of inhibiting the γ-secretase activity in a nerve cell.

6. (Currently Amended) The method treating a disorder associated with the activation of γ-secretase by according to claim 5, wherein ~~the method is for inhibiting the~~ said inhibiting of said formation of an active complex of γ-secretase occurs in lipid rafts.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase~~ treating a disorder associated with the activation of γ-secretase according to claim 5, wherein the cholesterol synthesis inhibitor or the protein geranylgeranylation regulator is one or more kinds of medical agents selected from a group consisting of an HMG-CoA synthetase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, a squalene synthetase inhibitor, a squalene

epoxydase inhibitor, a lanosterol synthetase inhibitor, an AMPK activator, a farnesyl pyrophosphate synthetase inhibitor and a geranylgeranyl transferase inhibitor.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase~~ treating a disorder associated with the activation of γ-secretase according to claim 5, wherein the cholesterol synthesis inhibitor or the protein geranylgeranylation regulator is an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase~~ treating a disorder associated with the activation of γ-secretase according to claim 5, wherein the cholesterol synthesis inhibitor or the protein geranylgeranylation regulator is pitavastatin.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a substance having an effect of inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase comprising assaying an activity of inhibiting cholesterol synthesis.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 15, wherein an activity of

inhibiting cholesterol synthesis is an activity of inhibiting synthesis of cholesterol to be accumulated in lipid rafts.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 15, wherein an activity of inhibiting cholesterol synthesis is an inhibiting activity selected from a group consisting of an activity of inhibiting HMG-CoA synthetase, an activity of inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase, an activity of inhibiting squalene synthetase, an activity of inhibiting squalene epoxydase, an activity of inhibiting lanosterol synthetase, an activity of inhibiting AMPK activator and an activity of inhibiting farnesyl pyrophosphate synthetase.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of screening according to claim 15, wherein an activity of inhibiting cholesterol synthesis is an activity of inhibiting HMG-CoA reductase.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a cholesterol synthesis inhibitor, a protein geranylgeranylation regulator or an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, comprising screening an effect of inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of screening a cholesterol synthesis inhibitor selected from a group consisting of an HMG-CoA synthetase inhibitor, an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, a squalene synthetase inhibitor, a squalene epoxydase inhibitor, a lanosterol synthetase inhibitor, an AMPK activator, a farnesyl pyrophosphate synthetase inhibitor and a geranylgeranyl transferase

inhibitor, comprising assaying an effect of inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of screening an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor comprising assaying an effect of inhibiting the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase.

22. (Withdrawn) A method of screening an effect of a test substance on γ-secretase comprising measuring the distribution of constituents required by γ-secretase in the cell for the formation of an active complex thereof by adding the test substance to cultured cells.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 22, wherein the constituents required for the formation of an active complex of γ-secretase are one or more kinds of substances selected from a group consisting of nicastrin, APH-1 and Pen-2.